



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123

March 6, 2006

To All Pilots:

During the breeding season, from **March 15 to August 15**, seabirds are particularly sensitive to aircraft disturbance.

What happens when aircraft fly too close to colonies?

- It disrupts nesting activities and causes adults to flush from their nests, which can break and knock eggs from the nest, or it leaves eggs and chicks exposed to predators.
- High levels of disturbance, including frequent disturbance or a single, severe event, can cause colony abandonment.

Where do seabirds nest?

- Seabirds nest along the coast on most offshore rocks, islands, and cliffs. Endangered Least Terns nest between runways at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in San Francisco Bay.
- The most sensitive colonies located from Marin to Monterey counties, including Alameda County, are shown on the accompanying maps.

What can you do to prevent seabird disturbance?

- **Fly at least 2,000 feet** away from the nesting colonies.
- Avoid sudden changes in direction, altitude, and speed near these areas.

It's the LAW!!!

- Disturbance of wildlife by aircraft can be a violation of 50CFR19.11, punishable by a \$1,000 citation or a mandatory court appearance that could result in a fine of up to \$10,000, one year in jail, aircraft forfeiture, and/or revocation of pilot's airman certificate.
- The following can be a violation under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act: 1) disturbing seabirds or marine mammals by flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over designated zones within the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary; 2) flying motorized aircraft at less than 1000 feet over designated zones within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary; or 3) taking any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird in or above the Monterey Bay Sanctuary (15 CFR, Part 922, Subpart H; and Subpart M, Appendix C). *See attached "Agencies with Overflight Restrictions" for specific zones.*

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE!

PLEASE POST THESE ITEMS TO YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AND DISTRIBUTE TO OTHER PILOTS
For more information please contact Kelley Higgason at (415) 561-6622 ext.202.

Sincerely,

Mendel Stewart

Project Leader

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Maria Brown

Superintendent

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary